

In the Claims:

1-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A cartilage plug for insertion into a void in cartilaginous tissue in a living being, comprising a preformed mass of an artificial biomedical material having a central axis and a three dimensional shape adapted for insertion into said void so as to at least partially fill said void, said cartilage plug preformed mass having a plurality of ridges formed outward of and extending about an outermost periphery of the preformed mass, the plurality of ridges defining parallel planes substantially perpendicular to the central axis, and a lubricious surface on at least one end of the cartilage plug.

13-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said ridges are discontinuous and are situated at discrete portions of said plug.

16. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said mass has a cylindrical shape.

17. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said mass has a polyhedral shape.

18. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein the cross-section of the distal end of said mass differs from the cross-section of the proximal end of said mass.

19. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 15, wherein said mass has a frusto-conical shape.

20. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein each such ridge has a barb shaped cross-section.

21. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein each such ridge has a rib shaped cross-section.

22. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said plug has a bore formed therein.
23. (Previously Presented) The cartilage plug of claim 22, wherein bore has ridges formed on its interior surface.
24. (Currently Amended) A cartilage plug for insertion into a void in cartilaginous tissue in a living being, comprising a preformed mass of an artificial biomedical material having a central axis and a three dimensional shape adapted for insertion into said void so as to at least partially fill said void, said cartilage plug ~~preformed mass~~ having a plurality of ridges formed outward of and extending about an outermost periphery of the preformed mass, the plurality of ridges comprising a single helix about the central axis, and a lubricious surface on at least one end of the cartilage plug, wherein said plug is formed of laminated materials, said materials having different ~~hardness's~~ hardnesses.
25. (Currently Amended) A cartilage plug for insertion into a void in cartilaginous tissue in a living being, comprising a preformed mass of an artificial biomedical material having a central axis and a three dimensional shape adapted for insertion into said void so as to at least partially fill said void, said cartilage plug ~~preformed mass~~ having a plurality of ridges formed outward of and extending about an outermost periphery of the preformed mass, the plurality of ridges comprising a single helix about the central axis, and a lubricious surface on at least one end of the cartilage plug, wherein said plug has porous surfaces.
26. (New) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said plug is formed of laminated materials, said materials having different hardnesses.
27. (New) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said plug has porous surfaces.
28. (New) A cartilage plug for insertion into a void in cartilaginous tissue in a living being, comprising a preformed mass of an artificial biomedical material having a central axis and a three dimensional shape adapted for insertion into said void so as to at least partially fill said void, said

cartilage plug having a plurality of ridges formed outward of and extending about an outermost periphery of the preformed mass, the plurality of ridges comprising a single helix about the central axis, and a lubricious surface on at least one end of the cartilage plug.